GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1553
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2014
LAB TO LAND APPROACH
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of proper co- ordination amongst agriculture universities of various States useful information relating to technological development for progress of agriculture do not reach the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has a proposal to have a lab to land approach to provide latest innovations to the farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether it is a fact that over thirty two crore agriculture based advisories were sent to the farmers by the Government, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has put in place various mechanisms for co-ordinating and sharing research in agriculture among agricultural universities and ICAR institutes. These mechanisms are ensured by holding scientific meetings and workshops of all the All India Coordinated Research Projects and Network Projects located at various Agricultural Universities. Besides, a number of seminars, conferences, symposia and conventions are also organized by various agricultural universities wherein faculty members from different universities participate. In addition the summer schools and winter schools are organized by Agricultural Universities through funding support from ICAR, in which scientists from all over the country participate. The ICAR also provide a common platform to all agricultural universities by holding the Conference of Vice-Chancellors, and meetings of 8 ICAR Regional Committees for sharing and cross learning of scientific achievements, problems and newly developed technologies among scientists.

(c) & (d): The Government has made adequate mechanisms for transfer of latest innovations through 100 ICAR Institutes, 70 Agricultural Universities and 641 Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the country. These organizations conduct farmer's trainings, on-farm trials and front-line-demonstrations; organize exhibitions and farmer's fairs where scientists from different universities participate and show case their latest technologies for their mutual benefits and dissemination among farmers.

(e) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has recently launched SMS service for farmers through the portal http://www.mkisan.gov.in. So far, nearly 1.50 lacs advisories have been sent to farmers through 105 crores messages' (equivalent to 315 crore SMSs) by all the agencies/organizations /departments in agriculture and allied sectors down to the block level throughout the country. Besides, Kisan Mobile Advisories have also been provided to 40.85 lakh farmers by KVKs during the last three years.